

Introduced by Senator Cogdill

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Section 20131 of the Public Contract Code, relating to public contracts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 532, as introduced, Cogdill. Contracting: counties: purchasing agents.

Existing law, with regard to public works projects awarded by counties, imposes certain mandatory procedures in soliciting and evaluating bids and awarding those contracts. Existing law provides that counties that employ purchasing agents, as specified, may exempt the purchasing agent from those procedures (1) with regard to the employment of state-licensed independent contractors and the purchase of materials, furnishings, and supplies used in the construction or repair of public works estimated as costing not more than \$6,500, or (2) in counties containing a population of 500,000 or more, with regard to the purchase of materials and supplies used in the construction or repair of public works estimated as costing not more than \$3,500.

This bill would revise these provisions to instead authorize these exemptions where the estimation of cost is no more than \$20,000 or \$11,000, respectively.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20131 of the Public Contract Code is
2 amended to read:

1 20131. Counties ~~which~~ *that* employ purchasing agents may:

2 (a) Authorize the agent to employ state-licensed independent
3 contractors and purchase materials, furnishings, and supplies used
4 in the construction or repair of public works estimated as costing
5 not more than ~~six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500)~~ *twenty*
6 *thousand dollars (\$20,000)* without the formality of obtaining bids,
7 letting contracts, preparing specifications, and the other things
8 required by this article.

9 (b) In counties containing a population of 500,000 or more,
10 authorize the agent to purchase materials and supplies used in the
11 construction or repair of public works estimated as costing not
12 more than ~~three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500)~~ *eleven*
13 *thousand dollars (\$11,000)* without the formality of obtaining bids,
14 letting contracts, preparing specifications, and the other things
15 required by this article.

16 (c) Authorize the agent to purchase or contract for medical or
17 surgical equipment or supplies, or for professional services, for a
18 county hospital without competitive bidding, so long as an
19 appropriation for the costs of those purchases or contracts is
20 included in the county budget.

21 As used in this subdivision, “medical or surgical equipment or
22 supplies” means only equipment or supplies commonly,
23 necessarily, and directly used by or under the direction of a
24 physician and surgeon in caring for or treating a patient in a
25 hospital.